

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for providing peer groups in a peer-to-peer environment. A  
5 peer group may be one or more peers in a peer-to-peer environment that share a set of  
network services and content. A peer group may define an implicit scope for messages  
originating from members peers of the peer group. A peer group may provide redundant  
services and content for greater reliability. In one embodiment, interaction among peers  
and peer groups in the peer-to-peer environment may be implemented using protocols that  
10 are platform-independent as to programming language implementations and network  
transports. In one embodiment, peers may discover existing peer groups and join the  
existing peer groups. In one embodiment, peers may create new peer groups.

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